

nocturnal illumination. People fastened rows of oil-lamps The to the outside of their houses, and the lamps burned all f/0^u_n^m^a" night long. The custom was not confined to Sals₅ but was houses observed throughout the whole of Egypt¹

Egyptfon

This universal illumination of the houses on one night ^{the} night of the year suggests that the festival may have been a com- festal memoration not merely of the dead Osiris but of the dead suggests In general, in other words, that it may have been a night of ^{rite} was a 'All Souls.'² For it is a widespread belief that the souls of ^ the dead revisit their old homes on one night of the year; and on that solemn occasion people prepare for the reception of the ghosts by laying out food for them to eat, and lighting lamps to guide them on their dark road from and to the grave. The following instances will illustrate the custom.

§ 2. Feasts of All Souls

The Esquimaux of St. Michael and the lower Yukon Annual River in Alaska hold a festival of the dead every year at [^edeLf the end of November or the beginning of December, as among well as a greater festival at intervals of several years. At nmux^"1" these seasons, food, drink, and clothes are provided for the returning ghosts in the *kashim* or clubhouse of the village, which is illuminated with oil lamps. Every man or The light-woman who wishes to honour a dead friend sets up a lamp lamps for on a stand in front of the place which the deceased used to ^{the dead} occupy in the clubhouse. These lamps, filled with seal oil, are kept burning day and night till the festival is over. They are believed to light the shades on their return to

interpretation is accepted by Prof. A. Isis. See Wiedemann (Herodots zwitss JBuch₉ A. "Wiedemann, Die Religion der a!fen p. 482). Agypter^ pp. 77 sq. | id.. Religion of
¹ Herodotus, ii. 62. In one of the Egyptians, pp. 140 sq. Hibe papyri (No. 27, lines 165-167} Middle In the period of the King- mention is made of the festival and of Siut dona the Egyptians of used to the lights which were burned through- light lamps for the dead on the last day and the first day out the district. See The Hibe papyri, year. See part i., ed. B. P. Grenfell and A. S. A. Erman, "Zehn Vortrage aus clem Hunt (London, 1906), p. 149 (pointed mittleren Reich," Zeitschrift fur agyp- out to me by Mr. W. Wyse). In tische Sprache itnd Alterthitmskunde, xx. (1882) p. 164; id., Aegypten und been held in honour of Athena (i.e. aegyptisches Leben im Altertum, pp. Neith), the great goddess of Sais, who 434 sq.